

Pentwater Bible Church

Genesis 10 The Line of Ham & Nimrod

Genesis Message Thirty- One



Assyrian Relief Depicting Nimrod

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Genesis Message Thirty-One The Table of Nations – Ham & Nimrod

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Review:

THE TOLDOT OF NOAH

In Genesis 10: 1 the writer of Genesis begins with this statement of Noah and his three sons. He further clarifies that those sons had their offspring after the Flood. Seventy nations would come from this family and all of humanity after them. This is the sequence of the son's birth order. They will not be presented in this chapter in that order. The order will be reversed so that Japheth the youngest will be first and Shem the oldest will be last. Ham the middle child will remain in that position of his line as it is unfolded. Shem is presented last because through his line would come and the Hebrew nation the royal line of the Messiah. This will be a focal point for most of the rest of the Bible. God also wants us to know how He distributed the Gentile nations throughout the world.

Deuteronomy 32: 8-9 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, When he separated the children of men, He set the bounds of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel. For Jehovah's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

God gave the different people groups of the world locations to live based upon the number of Hebrews that were instrumental in those nation's history. No nation was to be superior to another even Israel. They were chosen to fulfill a specific purpose in God's divine plan and as such had a greater responsibility to implement that plan. We as the Church have a special purpose to fulfill in God's divine providence. We are to bring the people of the world that God has chosen beforehand into a saving grace relationship with Him. It is also important to realize that the individual names became tribes, cities and nations. The Bible references them in each of these four ways interchangeably.

JAPHETH HAD SEVEN SONS:

1. Gomer was Japheth's first son.
2. Magog the second son.
3. Madai is the third son.

4. Javan was the fourth son.
5. Tubal was the fifth son.
6. Meshech was the sixth son.
7. Tiras was the seventh son.

GENESIS 10: 3 LISTS THREE SONS OF GOMER (GRANDSONS OF JAPHETH).

1. Ashkenaz was the first son.
2. Ripath was the second son.
3. Togarmah was the third son.

GENESIS 10: 4 LISTS FOUR SONS OF JAVAN (GRANDSONS OF JAPHETH).

1. Elishah was the first son.
2. Tarshish was the second son.
3. Kittim was the third son.
4. Dodanim was the fourth son.

It is quite clear from the progeny of Japheth that they migrated to the north and west, which is Russia and Europe. The text closes with “the isles of the nations” which is an implication of transoceanic areas. God enlarged Japheth

Today’s Message

Genesis 10: 6-12 And the sons of Ham: Cush, and Mizraim, and Put, and Canaan. And the sons of Cush: Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah: Sheba, and Dedan. And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah: wherefore it is said, Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before Jehovah. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land he went forth into Assyria, and builded Nineveh, and Rehoboth-ir, and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (the same is the great city). And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, and Pathrusim, and Casluhim (whence went forth the Philistines), and Caphtorim. And Canaan begat Sidon his first-born, and Heth, and the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite, and the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, and the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanite spread abroad. And the border of the Canaanite was from Sidon, as thou goest toward Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest toward Sodom and

Gomorrhah and Admah and Zeboiim, unto Lasha. These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, in their nations.

THE SONS OF HAM

This section of Scripture denotes the destination of the four sons of Noah's most nefarious son Ham. Ham and/or Canaan committed some sexual sin with their father and it resulted in a curse placed on Canaan by Noah. We will chart the earthly destination of each son and their offspring as well.

1. Cush is the first son who most likely migrated to Nubia and Ethiopia in Africa. This is where most references to them refer.
2. Mizraim is second son and it also the Hebrew word for Egypt. This is where he settled.
3. Put is the third son. He settled in North Africa and is the only son without a genealogy given.
4. Canaan is the fourth son. He is the father of the Canaanites. They received the curse and they adopted the Semitic culture and language.

THE TEXT LISTS SIX SONS OF CUSH.

1. Seba is the first. Josephus identifies him as the Seba between the Blue and White Niles in Africa.
2. Havilah is the second son. He lived where one identified source of gold was according to Genesis 2: 11 located along the Arabian coast. Ishmael lived (Genesis 25: 18) here and also the Amalekites (I Samuel 15:7).
3. Sabtah is the third son. They are identified with Hadramaut, which is southern Saudi Arabia near modern Yemen. Some identify him on the west coast of the Persian Gulf.
4. Raamah is the fourth son. He is identified with those in the extreme southwest of Saudi Arabia.
5. Sabteca is the fifth son. He migrated toward Ethiopia in Africa.

RAAMAH HAS TWO SONS LISTED

1. Sheba is the first one listed. He founded the Sabean of southwest Arabia and was the home of the Queen of Sheba who visited Solomon.

2. Dedan is the second son and is identified with Northern Arabia and near Edom. References to Dedan are Isaiah 21: 13; Jeremiah 25: 23, 49: 8 and in Ezekiel 25: 3 and Ezekiel 38: 13.

NIMROD

The text digresses here to begin to develop a very prominent and notorious character named Nimrod. He was the sixth son born of Cush. His name in Hebrew means to rebel. He was the founder of Babylon and Assyria. He is mentioned in I Chronicles 1: 10, Micah 5: 6 and here in Genesis 10: 8b-9. The Hebrew text states that he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. This is indicative of his antagonism and opposition to God. He was wicked and made the whole world rebel through the building of the Tower of Babel. He was the first to establish kingdoms. This happened in two stages. The *first* is in Shinar, which included Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh. The second kingdom is Assyria called the land of Nimrod in Micah 5: 6. After the language was separated in confused by God it drove him to Assyria from Babylon. The two have been intertwined since then.

JOSEPHUS SAYS:

"Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham the son of Noah. He was a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage, which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power...(Antiquities of the Jews Chapter 4:2)"

The Tower of Babel was in essence an attempt to have their own way apart from God. Humans were commanded to "Be fruitful and fill the earth." Instead they attempted to settle down in one location and establish a world state to offset the divine rule. The tower was meant to be a rebellious attempt to break from divine rule. They did not wish to obey God.

THE CULTIC BACKGROUND

Tradition suggests that Nimrod died a violent death. One tradition says that a wild animal killed him. Another says that Shem killed him because he had led the people into the worship of Baal.

According to ancient Egyptian and Babylonian traditions, his mother was Semiramis; sometimes Semiramis is referred to as the mother of Nimrod, and sometimes as his wife, leading to the belief that Nimrod married his mother. Also according to these traditions, Semiramis, who rose to greatness because of her son, was presented with a difficulty when her son died, so instead she pronounced him to be a god, so that she herself would become a goddess.

One story says that after Nimrod was killed, Semiramis claimed that an evergreen tree sprouted from a tree stump, which she said indicated the entry of new life into the deceased Nimrod; every year on the anniversary of Nimrod's birth (December 25) they would leave gifts at this evergreen tree.

Even though Semiramis claimed to be a virgin she had another son, named Tammuz, who she said was the reincarnation of Nimrod. She became known as the "Virgin Mother", "Holy Mother" and the "Queen of Heaven" and was symbolized by the Moon. So began the worship of Semiramis and the child-god, and the whole paraphernalia of the Babylonian religious system.

From various ancient sources, it seems that Nimrod's wife/mother; Semiramis was high priestess of the Babel religion and the founder of all mystery religions as well as goddess. After the tower was destroyed and the multiplicity of languages developed, she was worshiped as a goddess under many different names. She became Ishtar of Syria, Astarte of Phoenicia, Isis of Egypt, Aphrodite of Greece, and Venus of Rome—in each case the deity of sexual love and fertility. Her son Tammuz also came to be deified under various names and was the consort of Ishtar and god of the underworld.

According to the cult of Ishtar, Tammuz was conceived by a sunbeam, a counterfeit version of Jesus' virgin birth. Tammuz corresponded to Baal in Phoenicia, Osiris in Egypt, Eros in Greece, and Cupid in Rome. In every case, the worship of those gods and goddesses was associated with sexual immorality. The celebration of Lent which has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis' mourning for forty days over the death of Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14) before his alleged resurrection—another of Satan's mythical counterfeits."

Ezekiel 8:13-15 He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, [and] thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which [was] toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen [this], O son of man? Turn thee yet again, [and] thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

Ezekiel is communing with The Lord in a vision and the Lord shows him these things. The Babylonians took Ezekiel to Babylon in the second invasion of Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. Subsequent to that there was an additional invasion

in 586 B.C. sometime after the 2nd invasion and before the 3rd invasion in which the Lord showed Ezekiel the extent of the apostasy the Jews back in Jerusalem had fallen into.

After the decline of Babylon, their priests fled to Egypt and transported their religion with them. There the people worshipped Isis and her son Osiris (otherwise known as Horus). The same mother and child deities appeared in Greece as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms and in Pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter. Other cultures embraced this concept such as Cyprian and Indian.

In its organized form false religion began with the tower of Babel and Nimrod, from which Babylon derives its name. Cain was the first false worshiper, and many individuals after him followed his example. But *organized* pagan religion began with the descendants of Ham, one of Noah's three sons, who decided to erect a great monument that would "reach into heaven" and make themselves a great name (Genesis 10: 9-10; 11:4) Under the leadership of the proud and apostate Nimrod they planned to storm heaven and unify their power and prestige in a great worldwide system of worship. That was man's first counterfeit religion, from which every other false religion in one way or another has sprung.

God's judgment frustrated their primary purpose of making a grand demonstration of humanistic unity. By confusing "their language, that they may not understand one another's speech," and scattering "them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:7-8) the Lord halted the building of the tower and fractured their solidarity. But those people took with them the seeds of that false, idolatrous religion, seeds that they and their descendants have been planting throughout the world ever since. The ideas and forms were altered, adapted, and sometimes made more sophisticated, but the basic system remained, and remains, unchanged. That is why Babel, or Babylon, is called "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth" (Revelation 17:5). She was the progenitor of all false religions.

THE THREE BABYLONS:

In Scripture there are three Babylons, the geographic location, a world system and a corrupt religious system. We have partially examined the third; let's look at the other two.

BABYLON

For nearly 2,000 years Babylon was the most important city in the world. It was a commercial and financial center of Mesopotamia. The arts of divination,

astronomy, astrology, accounting, mathematics and private and commercial law all sprang up from Babylon. In short many of our world systems came from that region.

It was founded as told in Genesis 10:6. The Son of Ham is Cush who begat Nimrod. This was man's first attempt to establish a world state in opposition to the divine rule. There God struck the very thing that binds all men together namely, a common language. It became a city-state of Assyria and along the way Nabopolassar was appointed the King of the city. His son was Nebuchadnezzar. Who became king in 606 B.C. This was Neo-Babylon.

The ancient city of Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar II, must have been a wonder to the traveler's eyes. "In addition to its size," wrote Herodotus, a historian in 450 BC, "Babylon surpasses in splendor any city in the known world." Herodotus claimed the outer walls were 56 miles in length, 80 feet thick and 320 feet high. Chariot races took place on the top of the walls, where they were broad enough to allow a four-horse chariot to turn around. The river Euphrates went through the middle of the city under the walls and linked with a moat surrounding the walls. The river Euphrates entered and exited through two spiked gates whose bars reached down to the riverbed. When these double doors were shut and all other entrances were closed, Babylon was impregnable.

Inside the walls were fortresses and temples containing immense statues of solid gold. Rising above the city was the famous Tower of Babel, a temple to the god Marduk that seemed to reach to the heavens.

Nebuchadnezzar came from the sea lands of the tribe of Kedar in the south. (Kuwait) So did Mohammed and Sadaam Hussein. Nebuchadnezzar built the hanging gardens, (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world), and was the most important ruler of this dynasty. He marched through Israel and besieged Jerusalem three times. Nebuchadnezzar was also one of the most renowned builders in the Near East, making Babylon the most beautiful city in the region. His reign began what Jesus called in Scripture the "Times of the Gentiles" meaning the time that Gentiles would be in control of Jerusalem until Christ returns. Nebuchadnezzar also built the Ishtar Gate. It was a double gate at the south end of the processional way, which was dedicated to the goddess Ishtar. It was covered with brilliant blue glazed bricks and bas-relief animal sculptures. It is now in the state museum of Berlin. Nebuchadnezzar paved the street sidewalks with small red stone slabs. Along the edge of each stone were carved, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who made this," demonstrating Nebuchadnezzar's absolute power and influence over Babylon.

HAMMURABI

The Code of Hammurabi is one of the earliest sets of laws found, and one of the best-preserved examples of this type of document from ancient

Mesopotamia. It shows rules and punishments if those rules are defied. It focuses on theft, farming (or shepherding), property damage, women's rights, marriage rights, children's rights, slave rights, and murder, death, and injury. The laws do not accept excuses or explanations for mistakes or fault. There were 282 laws on an obsidian stela, which is lava like stone and it is about 8 feet tall. It was discovered in 1909. It is now on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. This concept lives on in most modern legal systems and has given rise to the term "written in stone".

MATHEMATICS

They developed a form of writing based on cuneiform (i.e. wedge-shaped) symbols. Their symbols were written on wet clay tablets, which were baked in the hot sun, and many thousands of these tablets have survived to be read by us today. It was the use of a stylus on a clay medium that led to the use of cuneiform symbols since curved lines could not be drawn. The Babylonians divided the day into 24 hours, each hour into 60 minutes, each minute into 60 seconds. This form of counting (hexagesimal or base 60) has survived for 4000 years. Their year and calendar had 30 month days and 360-day years. (Same as Genesis 7 & 8, Daniel 7:25 Revelation 12:6, 14 and Revelation 13:5) They had tables of squares, square roots, cubes, cube roots, reciprocals, exponential functions, and log functions. They had knowledge of trigonometry, the Pythagorean theorem 1200 years before Pythagoras did, and pi. They divided the circle into 360 degrees.

Babylon spiritually symbolizes the city of man or the city of Satan. One way to look at the Bible is a tale of two cities Jerusalem and Babylon. Both began in Genesis and both end in Revelation. It has never been destroyed yet (Isaiah 13: 19-20). It fell into disrepair over the years since Cyrus took over the city. Saddam Hussein spent considerable effort to rebuild it.

GOD IMPLORES US TO COME OUT OF HER.

Revelation 18:4-5 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying Come out of her, my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

NEXT WEEK: THE LINE OF SHEM

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THE WORLD AS KNOWN TO THE HEBREWS ACCORDING TO THE MOSAIC ACCOUNT.



SONS OF



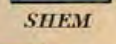
JAPHET

SONS OF



HAM

SONS OF



SIEM

and EBER
with his descendents the
Hebrews Ishmaelites
and Edomites.

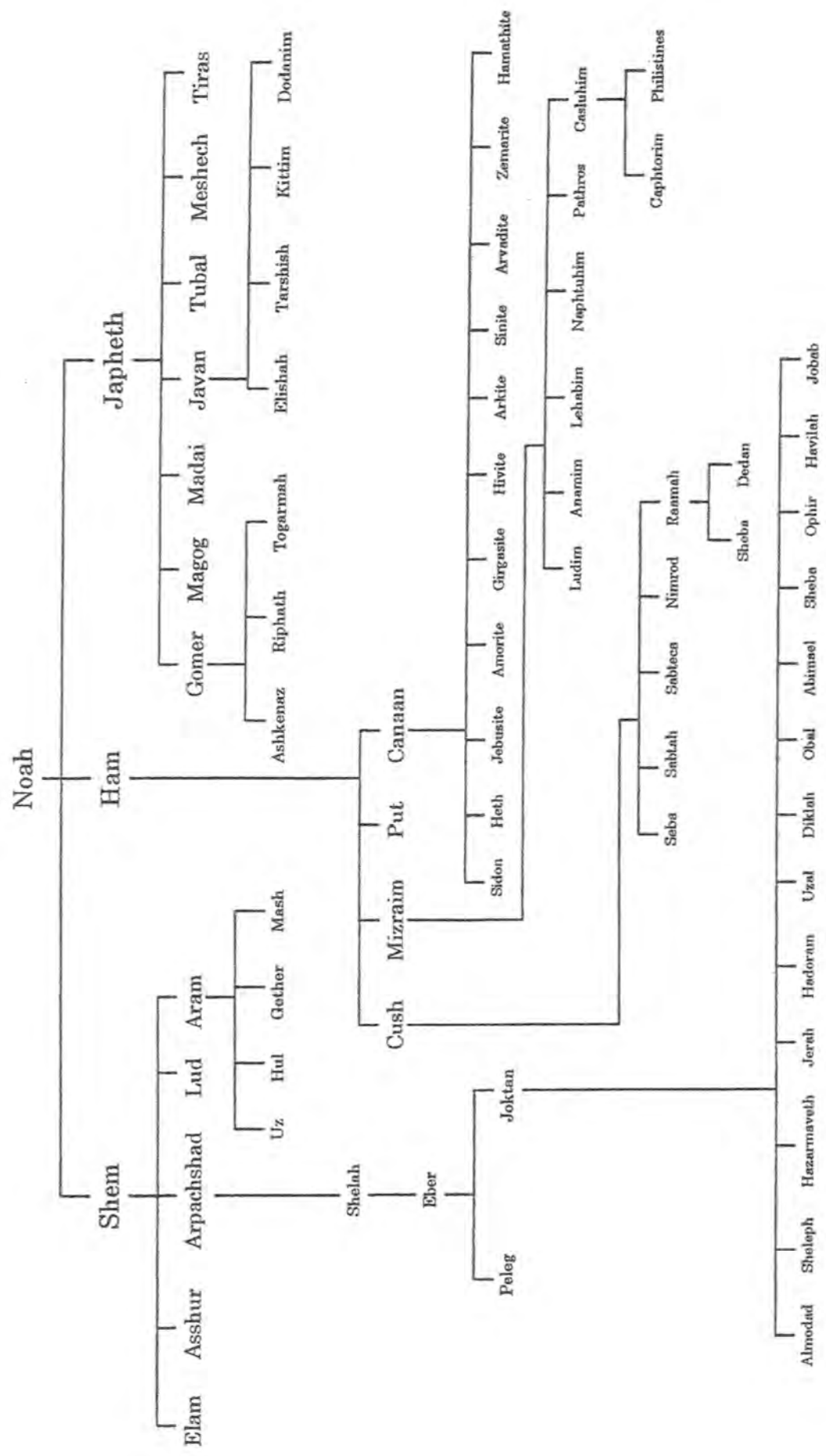
Extent of the ancient
Assyrian Empire.

Chronology of Genesis

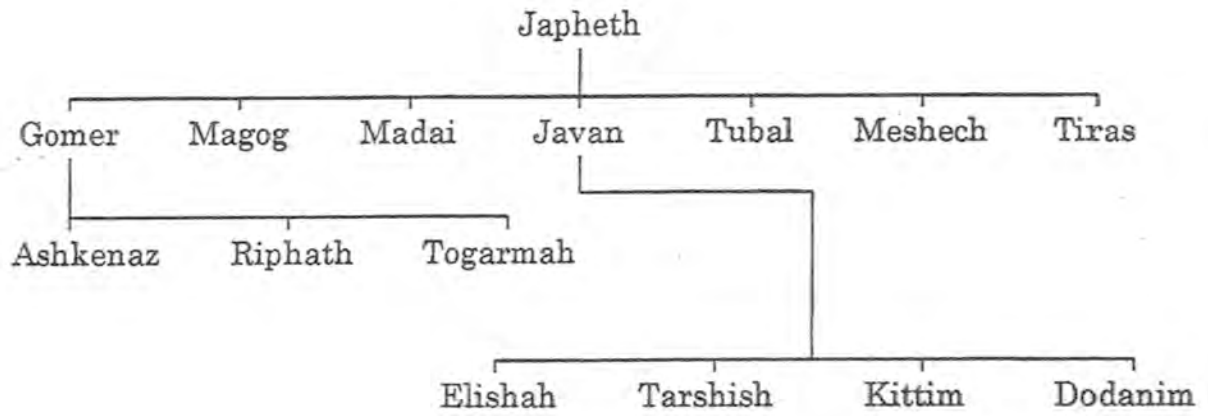
Name	Year of Birth	Age at Birth of Seed Son	Age at Death	A.H*.Year of Death
Adam	0	130	930	930
Seth	130	105	912	1042
Enosh	235	90	905	1140
Cainan	325	70	910	1235
Mahalalel	395	65	895	1290
Jared	460	162	962	1422
Enoch	622	65	365	987
Methuselah	687	187	969	1656
Lamech	874	182	777	1651
Noah	1056	502	950	2006
Shem	1558	100	600	2158
Arpaxad	1658	35	438	2096
Shelah	1693	30	433	2126
Eber	1723	34	464	2187
Peleg	1757	30	239	1996
Reu	1787	32	239	2026
Serug	1819	30	230	2049
Nahor	1849	29	148	1997
Terah	1878	70	205	2083
Abraham	1948	100	175	2123
Isaac	2048	60	180	2228
Jacob	2108		147	2255
Joseph	2218		110	2365

* A. H. Stands for Anno Homini - the year of Man. It counts from the creation of Adam onward instead of using the BC-AD system.

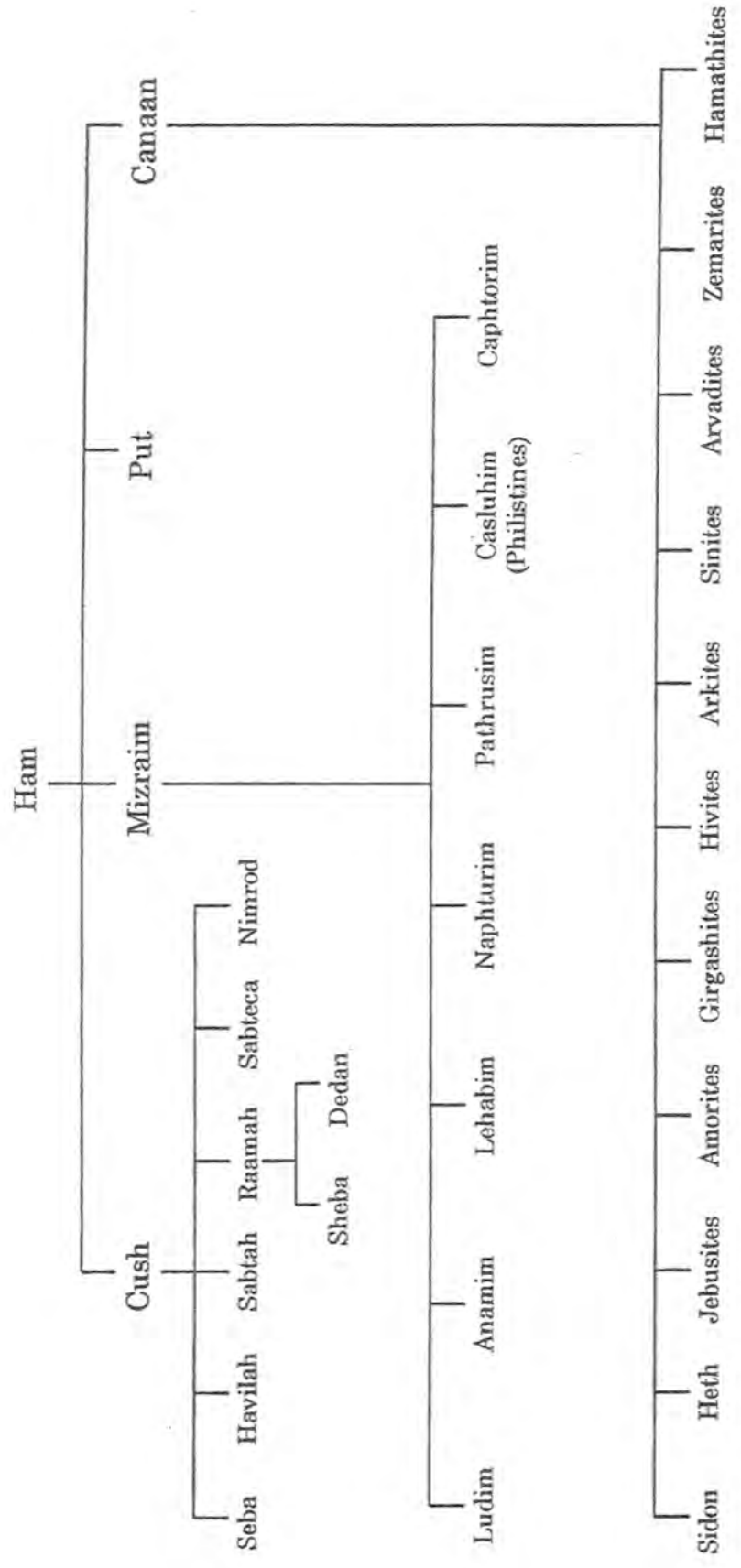
The Genealogy of Noah



The Genealogy of Japheth



The Genealogy of Ham



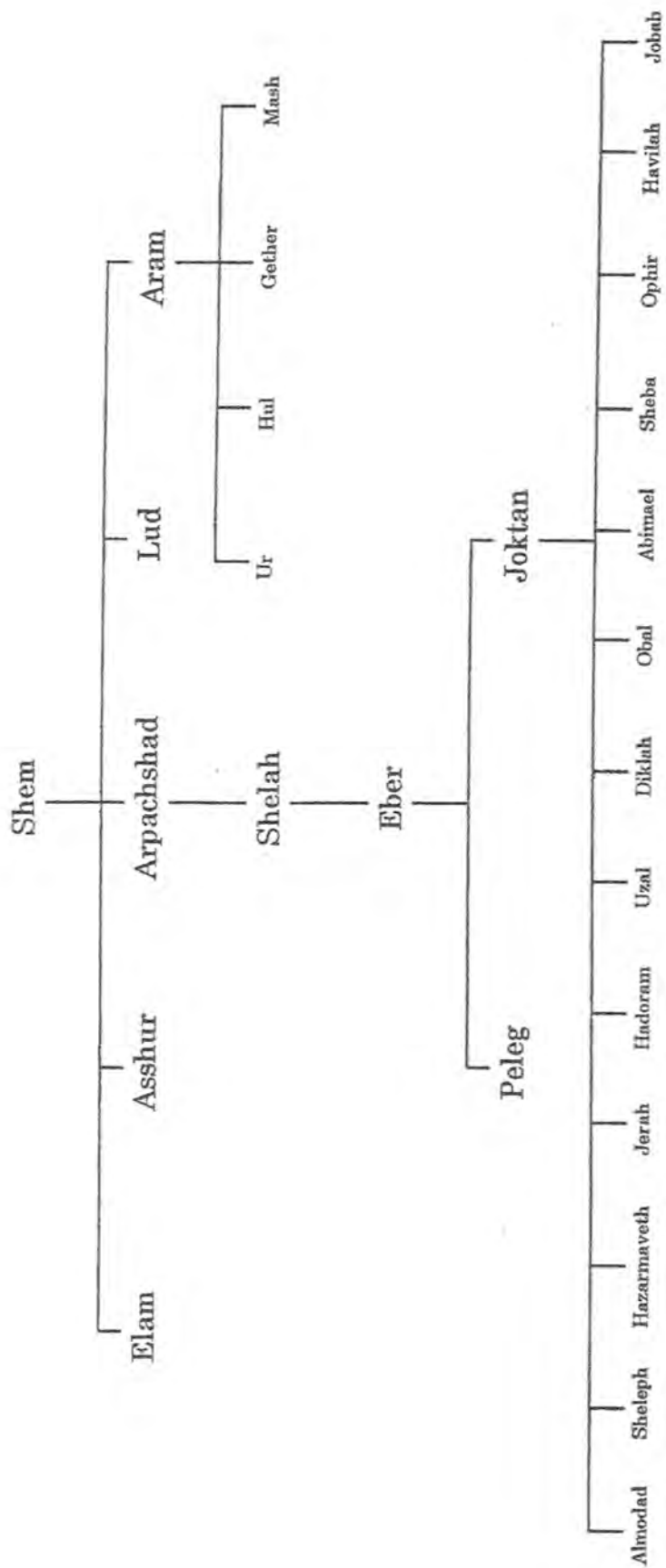
The Genealogy of Shem

Person	Age at Birth of Son	A.H.* Year Of Birth	Years After Birth of Son	Total Age	A.H.* Year Of Death	Age at Birth Of Son Samaritan	Age at Birth of Son LXX
Shem	100	1556 (8)	500	600	2156 (8)		
Arpachshad	35	1658	403	438	2096	135	135
Shelah	30	1693	403	433	2126	130	130
Eber	34	1723	430	464	2187	134	134
Peleg	30	1757	209	239	1996	130	130
Reu	32	1787	207	239	2026	132	132
Serug	30	1819	200	230	2049	130	130
Nahor	29	1849	119	148	1997	79	179
Terah	70 (130)	1878	135	205	2083		130
Abraham	100	1948 (2008)	75	175	2123 (2183)		
Isaac	60	2048 (2108)	120	180	2228 (2288)		
Jacob		2108 (2168)		130	2238 (2298)		

Between Arpachshad and Shelah, the LXX has Kenan (Cainan) who begat Shelah at the age of 130.

*A.H. Stands for Anno Homini - the year of Man. It counts from the creation of Adam onward instead of using the BC-AD system.

The Genealogy of Shem





Indian
Devaki



Babylonian



Indian
Crishna



Indian



Cyprus



Egyptian



Hindu